

In connection with my tenured professorship, I am allowed to own a house on Stanford property, to rent out a cottage on that property, to receive salary for any semester in which I teach a full course load, to receive a stipend for less than a full course load, and to receive contributions to my retirement account commensurate with my compensation.

When I served in Congress before, I received a statement from the ethics committee granting me permission to continue in the above described relationship, both in that and in future Congresses. I have requested similar permission from the ethics committee since joining Congress again.

I have prepared this statement to make public, and also to deliver to any agency or person when appropriate in connection with my work as a Member of Congress so that, should the matter of business affect Stanford University, the recipient can weigh my advice or opinion knowing of the interest that I may have. However, I do assure any such recipient, and my constituents, that I have never, and will never, decide a matter of public policy that affects Stanford University differently because of my relationship with Stanford. Also, my wife, Susanne, is an employee of the Haas School of Business at the University of California at Berkeley. I offer the identical statement with regard to any action of mine that might affect that university as well.

INJURED WORKERS REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Ms. DUNN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I join with Mr. BILBRAY as an original cosponsor of H.R. 3203, H.R. 3204, and H.R. 3205, legislation that would begin to reform the appeals process for injured Federal workers; require the administrative agency responsible for adjudicating claims select physicians that are impartial; and require that physicians who have been certified by a board of medical specialties be selected to provide for second opinions for these claims.

This legislation would create a much needed timeframe for the decisionmaking process for a workers compensation claim. This legislation would require that the initial decision made by the Secretary of Labor regarding any claim filed by a Federal employee be made within 90 days of the filing of said claim. If for some reason, a decision regarding compensation is not reached within 90 days, the claimant would be given full and normal salary payment until a decision is reached.

These measures would specify that an employee filing an injured workers claim must submit to an actual physical examination by a physician designated or approved by the Secretary of Labor or his designee when ordered by an administrative law judge. When surgery is required, a second opinion would be required except in life-threatening situations.

If there is any reason for disagreement between the physician for the Secretary of Labor and the claimant's physician, a list of three physicians of the appropriate board certified specialty would be given to the claimant to choose from, and a final exam would be con-

ducted to reach closure on any medical and legal issues. All information would be shared with the claimants physician.

The fees set for this process would be set by the Secretary of Labor and would be the same as those allowed to the claimant's physician. All medical bills shall be paid within 60 days of billing, except during the initial claims process and in that case within 60 days of acceptance of the claim.

Further, it would be required that if a claimant is not satisfied with the initial decision regarding his claim he/she may request an oral hearing within 180 days of the date of the initial decision. Under this legislation, once the hearing request has been filed, a hearing must take place within 90 days of the date requested. Any decisions regarding the issues being appealed would have to be rendered within 30 days of the hearing or benefits shall be reinstated if denied.

When conducting a hearing the claimant would be able to cross examine all witnesses and present any evidence they feel necessary for consideration of the claim. If the claimant prevails in the appeal, their attorney or representative would receive 15 percent of the benefits awarded to the claimant.

In a case in which vocational rehabilitation is required, the Secretary would provide these services to any permanently disabled claimant who requests them or whose physician requests them. The claimant would be able to choose the vocational service provider and, Federal employees would be given first priority of placement to injured Federal workers positions commensurate with their pay at the time of their injury and disability.

Mr. Speaker, these legislative changes will bring about much needed reform in the way Federal worker's injury claims are handled. I look forward to working with Mr. BILBRAY in bringing this measure before the whole House of Representatives as soon as possible.

MEGAN'S LAW

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of H.R. 2137, a bill known as Megan's law. I am a cosponsor of this important legislation and I commend my colleague, Mr. ZIMMER, for his work on behalf of innocent children nationwide.

As a resident of New Jersey, this particular bill is a painful reminder of the brutal tragedy that took an innocent child's life almost 2 years ago. Mr. Speaker, I know that we cannot bring back 7-year-old Megan Kanka, for whom this bill is named. We can, however, ensure that in the future our sons and daughters are protected from known sex offenders that prey on them.

We often speak of parental responsibility and the importance of making informed decisions concerning the well-being of our children. This bill is about empowering parents with information to do just that.

H.R. 2137 would require that States make public pertinent information on individuals previously convicted of sex crimes or kidnapping.

Mr. Speaker, I believe our communities have the right to know if their children are at

risk. As a former Federal prosecutor and the father of two children, I want to know if a convicted child molester has moved into my neighborhood. Had Maureen and Richard Kanka been informed that a known pedophile lived around the corner, Megan would probably be alive today. Instead, she was raped and murdered right across the street. If only they had known.

It is also important to point out that in my home State of New Jersey, our version of Megan's law is being challenged on the grounds of its constitutionality and has been temporarily halted by a court injunction. I am hopeful the Third U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will uphold this legislation and place the safety of our children above the protection of their offenders.

Mr. Speaker, I can think of no greater fear than harm coming to my children. I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to parents of Megan Kanka and those who loved her. We must not allow this little girl's life to be taken in vain. How many children must fall victim before action is taken.

Again, I thank my colleague from New Jersey and the Judiciary Committee for their leadership on this important bill. I strongly support passage of H.R. 2137 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

HONORING THE HILHAM VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Hilham Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in fire fighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catch fire, well trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.